



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/12/2010

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PRESS RELEASE

Albany, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and John P. Melville, Acting Superintendent of the New York State Police, announced that SHAWN BUTCHER, age 36, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas J. McAvoy in Federal District Court in Albany on his guilty plea to Count One of an Indictment charging him with the receipt of child pornography. BUTCHER was sentenced to seventy months of imprisonment and supervised release for ten years. He was also ordered to: (1) have no unsupervised contact with minors; and (2) register with his local State Sex Offender Registry Program. The Court also ordered that a computer be forfeited to the United States.

BUTCHER pled guilty on February 23, 2010. In connection with his plea, BUTCHER admitted the following during his plea proceeding:

Between about August, 2004 and July 21, 2009, BUTCHER, while in his residence, used a Hewlett Packard Pavilion laptop computer, serial no. CND6170LLL to access the internet. While on the internet BUTCHER downloaded and installed a file sharing program called "Limewire" onto said computer.

While surfing the internet and visiting various websites or while using the Limewire program, BUTCHER knowingly obtained several electronic files containing still images and videos depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. BUTCHER then downloaded some of these still images and videos to the aforementioned computer wherein he would ultimately save the electronic files.

On March 19, 2009 investigators identified the IP address assigned to BUTCHER'S internet account with Time Warner Cable. Investigators further identified that a computer using BUTCHER'S IP address was permitting other Limewire users seeking child pornography to obtain child pornography from BUTCHER. On July 21, 2009 investigators executed a search warrant at

BUTCHER'S residence. The aforementioned Hewlett Packard laptop computer along with other electronic items were seized and searched.

A forensic examination of the aforementioned HP laptop computer, which belonged to BUTCHER, was subsequently conducted. A number of movie files which depict minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, as those terms and phrases are defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(2), were recovered from said computer. Said images depicted individuals under the age of 18 engaged in, among other things, vaginal sex, oral sex, masturbation and the lascivious exhibition of the genitals and pubic area. All of the images recovered depicted actual, as opposed to computer generated, images of minors engaged in such conduct.

This case was investigated by the New York State Police.

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